



## COMPRESSED BREATHING AIR



Maxxam's scientists have extensive experience in testing compressed breathing air and medical gases. Our analysts re-establish their proficiency annually and participate in routine proficiency testing overseen by the Standards Council of Canada ([www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca)).

Maxxam supplies:

- Low pressure and high pressure sampling cylinders
- Instructions for sampling at compressor and gas storage points

### Is your compressed breathing air keeping you safe?

Firefighters, scuba divers and industrial workers rely on their compressed breathing air as part of their personal protective equipment. The medical field relies on the purity of compressed gases used in diverse applications for patient care. To protect users, the Canada Standards Association (CSA) sets strict guidelines on the purity of compressed breathing gases and frequency of testing.

#### TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The CSA requires that the air produced by compressed breathing air systems be tested at least every 6 months.

#### Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

SCBA must protect users from smoke, heat, aerosols, and toxic gases.

#### SCUBA Diving

Divers are particularly susceptible to contaminants in their breathing air and to post-dive or long-term health effects from carbon monoxide poisoning or gaseous contaminants. Many volatile organic compounds have anaesthetic effects that are amplified due to pressure and nitrogen narcosis, resulting in impaired judgement, lowered seizure threshold, and sensitisation of the heart to arrhythmias.

Maxxam offers compressed gas testing to the following CSA standards:

- CAN3-Z180.1 Compressed Breathing Air and Systems
- Z275.1 Hyperbaric Chambers
- Z275.2 Occupational Safety Code for Diving Operations
- Z7396.1 Medical Gases

# COMPRESSED BREATHING AIR



Maxxam is a North American leader in analytical services and solutions to the energy, environmental, industrial hygiene, food and DNA industries.

We are a member of the Bureau Veritas Group of companies – a world leader in testing, inspection and certification services.

Maxxam supports critical decisions made by our customers through the application of rigorous science and the knowledge and expertise of our over 2,500 employees.

Our tests include:

MAJOR GAS CONSTITUENTS	MINOR GAS CONSTITUENTS	CONTAMINANTS
Oxygen	Nitrous Oxide	Carbon Monoxide
Nitrogen	Nitrogen Dioxide	Carbon Dioxide
	Anaesthetic Agents	Methane
		Halogenated Hydrocarbons
		Oil and Particulates
		Dew Point

## HOW CAN MAXXAM HELP YOU?

Maxxam has been testing compressed breathing air and medical gases to meet CSA standards for more than 30 years. Customers include the Canadian military, fire departments, medical facilities, diving shops, compressor distributors, industrial facilities, and sandblasting and automotive shops.

When working with Maxxam, you can benefit from the following service standards:

- Sampling cylinder rental
- Standard 5-day turnaround for results
- Electronic reporting
- Certificate of Analysis
- Technical advice and data interpretation
- Scheduled retesting – we keep track so you don't have to

## ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY

Maxxam's Mississauga laboratory is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for Occupational Health and Safety testing of Compressed Breathing Air Systems and Medical Gases.

For more information, contact us at:

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